



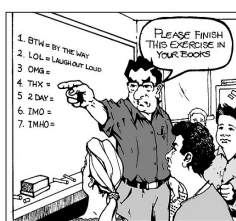
## P5 STATE

**COVID: DAK SAYS DELAY IN HOSPITALISATION PROVING FATAL, CONTRIBUTING TO HIGH MORTALITY**

Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Tuesday said delay in reporting to hospitals is the main reason for increase in number of deaths due to Covid-19 in the Kashmir valley....

## P7 THINK GONE FOR A TOSS

While it may seem to some that social media is helping students, it is actually true that social media is causing writing to worsen. Student's writing has been affected by social media and is causing teenagers to become lazier, encourages "tech talk", and...



## P3 CITY

**COVID: 1300 ADDITIONAL BEDS SETUP IN SRINAGAR AS CASES SURGE**

Amid a surge in Covid-19 cases the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Mohammad Aljaz Asad Tuesday visited various Covid Care Isolation Centers established...



## Widom Quote!

The Lord's commandment for every one of His slaves is, 'Spend on others, and I will spend on you'. Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh)

—Bukhari, Muslim

15<sup>TH</sup> RAMAZAN

	Iftar TODAY	Sehri TOMORROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	07:15	04:14
FIQAH JAFARIYA	07:23	04:10



## NEWS DIGEST

**Soldier Shoots Self Dead In Banihal**

**JAMMU:** A soldier on Tuesday allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself dead inside an army camp in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir. 28-year-old Asangeppa Madar of Karnataka shot himself dead with his service weapon at army's transit camp in Banihal area around 2 am Tuesday, officials said. The young soldier, they said, was posted at the R-centre camp at Banihal. ● [More On P10](#)

**Truck Mows Down Traffic Cop**

**SRINAGAR:** A traffic policeman was knocked to death by an over speeding truck on the Srinagar-Jammu highway near Qazigund on Tuesday. Constable Abdul Majeed Tantray was critically injured after being hit by an over speeder truck (JK01W-2973) at Chumullah crossing in Qazigund area along the highway in south Kashmir around 7:00 am today. ● [More On P10](#)

**47 Booked For Grabbing Forest Land**

**SRINAGAR:** Police have registered a case against 47 persons for allegedly encroaching upon forest land in Pahalgam and cultivating cannabis over it, officials said on Tuesday. They said Police station Pahalgam registered the FIR (No 18/2021) under sections of 8/20 NDPS Act and 26 Indian Forest Act on the basis of a criminal complaint lodged by a Forest Range officer of the area. ● [More On P10](#)

**HC Quashes 2 PSA Detentions**

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed detention of two persons booked under Public Safety Act. A bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar quashed the detention order of Abdul Qadoos Rather, a resident of Kupwara who was booked under PSA on 22 November 2019 and Riyaz Khaliq Parray, booked under the law on 17 February last year by District Magistrate Baramulla. ● [More On P10](#)

**3 Injured After Car Rolls Into Gorge**

**SRINAGAR:** At least three people were injured when the car they were travelling in skidded off the road and plunged into a gorge in Kalaroos area of Kupwara district, officials said Tuesday. A private car carrying three people skidded off the road and rolled into a nallah near Gurdaji in Kalaroos on Monday evening, an army official said Tuesday. He said an army patrol quickly ● [More On P10](#)

**V-C Prof Talat Discharged From SKIMS**

**SRINAGAR:** Vice-Chancellor of University of Kashmir, Prof Talat Ahmad was on Tuesday discharged from Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Srinagar after recovering from coronavirus. In a statement issued here, a varsity spokesperson said the KU Vice-Chancellor has been discharged from SKIMS Srinagar today. Prof Talat was admitted to SKIMS Soura on Wednesday last with bilateral Covid ● [More On P10](#)

## PAGE 1 ANCHOR

**SRO Kashmir: Saving Breaths In Valley**

Auqib Javeed

**BONAPORA,** Batamaloo – As one of those unassuming heroes who don't wear capes, Shahid Ahmad is handling the perilous pandemic like a seasoned crisis manager.

His calm composure amid a torrent of calls pleading for oxygen machines makes him one of the determined ground troopers holding the fort when the going is indeed getting tough in Kashmir.

Behind a glass counter in a newly-constructed building of an old Batamaloo neighbourhood, Shahid treats the distressed visitors with patience and compassion.

"Since last year when Covid left Kashmir gasping for breath, I've witnessed some overwhelming scenes here," Shahid says, as he issues another oxygen cylinder, this time to a distressed son whose mother is struggling to breathe.

"But it feels terrible when people come to return oxygen machines and tell their patients couldn't make it!"

As a foot soldier of SRO (Social Reform Organisation) Batamaloo, "a Trust, established in 2004, for the welfare of the poor", Shahid is only predicting the tough times in Kashmir as pandemic lately turned perilous.

In the resurgent viral phase, calls for oxygen are buzzing. Some even ring in

the middle of the night when the jetlagged Shahid tries some sleep after a demanding day in office.

But the Samaritan leaves bed with a sense of duty, and issues oxygen machine to the distressed caller at the drop of a hat.

Unsung heroes like Shahid are silently working on the ground to mitigate the Covid crisis which returned as a bogeyman in Kashmir after wreaking havoc ● [More On P10](#)

**25 MORE DIE OF COVID-19**

J&K Sees Record Single-Day Spike, 3164 Test Positive

**Observer Monitoring Desk**

**SRINAGAR:** The number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir took another big one-day leap on Tuesday as 3,164 more people tested positive for Covid-19, while the deadly infection claimed the lives of 25 more people across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, among the 25 fatalities, 15 were reported from Jammu division and ten from Kashmir, raising the death



File Photo: Abid Bhat

toll due to pandemic to 2197 in J&K. A 20-year-old girl and two women aged between 47 to 55 years were among

the victims who succumbed to Covid-19 since overnight. They said the 20-year-old was resident

**Govt Asks DCs To Check Black Marketing Of Oxygen**

The Lieutenant Governor led dispensation on Tuesday directed the Divisional Commissioners to keep a strict check on the black marketing of oxygen cylinders and deploy Magistrates and concerned staff to cross check the supply of oxygen cylinders reaching their destinations from the source industrial plants. These directions were passed to the ● [More On P10](#)

**Teaching, Non-Teaching Staff To Work From Home**

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday said that teaching and non-teaching staff was not required to be physically present for any educational establishment in Jammu and Kashmir. Top officials of ● [More On P10](#)

**Sec 144 Imposed In Srinagar To Fight Virus**

**SRINAGAR:** The district administration here on Tuesday ordered imposition of Section 144 CrPc, banning the assembly of five or more persons, in this capital city, to fight coronavirus as cases continue to shoot up rapidly.

"In view of massive spurt in positive cases in District Srinagar & after due deliberations, Section 144 CrPc is imposed hereby within the Municipal limits of the district to contain further spread of the epidemic," said Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, in a tweet. "Assembly of five or more persons is banned with immediate effect," he added.

Asad's Tweet came in the backdrop of Srinagar reporting 1144 fresh cases of coronavirus during the last 24 hours.

Former Chief Minister of J&K and National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah said that all the precautions that can be ● [More On P10](#)

**WHO: Rush To Hospitals, Big Gatherings Worsen India Covid Crisis**

File Photo: Abid Bhat

**Agencies**

**GENEVA:** People in India are rushing unnecessarily to hospital, exacerbating a crisis over surging Covid-19 infections caused by mass gatherings, more contagious variants and low vaccination rates, the

World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday. India's death toll is now pushing towards 200,000, and hospitals that do not have enough oxygen supplies and beds are turning away coronavirus patients. The WHO is providing ● [More On P10](#)

**PM's Aunt Dies During Covid-19 Treatment**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aunt Narmadaben Modi who was undergoing treatment for coronavirus infection died at the civil hospital here on Tuesday, the family said. Narmadaben (80) lived in the New Ranip area of the city with her children. "Our aunt Narmadaben was admitted to the civil ● [More On P10](#)

**CURRENTLY, PART OF THE PROBLEM** is that many people rush to the hospital [also because they do not have access to information or advice], even though home-based care monitoring at home can be managed very safely."

**Army Chief Visits Eastern Ladakh, Siachen****Press Trust Of India**

**NEW DELHI:** Army Chief Gen MM Naravane on Tuesday visited eastern Ladakh and Siachen and reviewed India's operational preparedness in the strategically key sectors, official sources said. He was accompanied by Lt Gen YK Joshi, Army Commander of the Northern Command, and Lt Gen PGK Menon, General Officer

Commanding (GOC) of the Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps.

The sources said Gen Naravane interacted with troops and complimented them for their steadfastness and high morale while being deployed in some of the harshest terrain, altitude and weather conditions.

The Chief of Army Staff was later briefed by Lt Gen Menon on the prevailing ● [More On P10](#)

**Sunny Weather To Continue Till May 3****Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** The people in Kashmir valley continue to enjoy pleasant weather even as the night temperature remains few notches below normal, officials said on Tuesday. A meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 9.0 degree Celsius against 7.6 degree Celsius on the previous night. The temperature was 0.3 degree

Celsius below normal for this time of the season in the summer capital, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 6.6 degree Celsius against previous night's 5.6 degree Celsius which was below normal by 1.2 degree Celsius, the official said.

Mercury settled at 4.0 degree Celsius against 2.1 degree Celsius on the previous night in Pahalgam. The temperature was below 0.4 degree ● [More On P10](#)

**HC Asks J&K SSB To Redraw Teachers List In 40 Notifications****Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** The High Court has upheld its single bench verdict, asking Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board to consider additional points for higher qualification of candidates who had omitted to fill up the same in their application forms against the posts of teachers advertised through as many as 40 notifications in 2017.

A division bench of Justices Ali Mohammad Magrey and

Vinod Chatterji Koul directed the Board to redraw the list "expeditiously", and, in any case, not later than eight weeks.

The Board had invited applications from amongst the eligible candidates for selection against the posts of Teacher vide notification Nos. 06/2017/01 to 06/2017/14 dated 28th of December, 2017 (General

Line); 06/2017/15 to 06/2017/28 dated 28th of December, 2017 (Science/Maths); and 06/2017/29 to 06/2017/42 dated 28th of December, 2017 for different Districts of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Single Judge had directed the Board to call the all the candidates, who had filed petition before the court, for counseling, verify their documents and assess ● [More On P10](#)

**Writer Marghoob Banihali No More****Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** Famous writer, scholar and ex-HOD Kashmiri Department at Kashmiri University, Dr Ghulam Mohammad, popularly known by his pen name Marghoob Banihali, passed away on Tuesday at his Srinagar residence after a brief period of illness, family sources said. He was 84.

The deceased was the father of renowned psychiatrist, Dr Mushtaq Marghoob.

Born in the Giri family in Bankoot area of Banihal in J&K's Ramban district, Dr Marghoob had authored ● [More On P10](#)